workers who want a thumb nail sketch of an enzyme coupled with the chance to delve more deeply into the literature. Together, the two volumes provide a very useful means of quick reference and they will be even better if the authors can be persuaded to contemplate the task of preparing second editions in the not-too-distant future.

John Kenny

Chemistry and Biology of Pteridines 1986

Pteridines and Folic Acid Derivatives

Edited by B.A. Cooper and V.M. Whitehead

Walter de Gruyter; Berlin and New York, 1986

1050 pages. DM 380.00

As in many other fields researchers in the area of pteridines and folates have taken to having a specialised meeting on a regular basis. This book consists of a series of summaries of the work presented at the most recent of these four yearly meetings (Montreal, 1986).

The book is in six subsections with each containing one state of the art contribution of some 10–30 pages followed by individual contributions of four pages. The combining of contributions on pteridines and folate at the same conference is logical and worthwhile as far as the sections dealing with their chemistry is concerned. However, it would be helpful for somebody outside the area to know that the biochemistry and clinical aspects of these two areas have little to do with each other.

The Editors undertook to have the book published in the same year as the conference, to encourage those attending to present original and up to the minute material. Thus most of the material is original which makes this an extremely worthwhile text for those in this and related areas.

J.M. Scott

Biochemistry and Biology of Plasma Lipoproteins

Edited by A.M. Scanu and A.A. Spector

Marcel Dekker; New York, 1987

xii + 514 pages. $89.75 (USA and Canada), $107.50 (elsewhere)

This book, Volume 11 in a series on The Biochemistry of Disease, was prompted by 'the need for ready access to background material' and the 16 chapters by various contributors are based on a series of lectures 'with suitable updating' given to American graduate students in 1983.

An introductory chapter gives an overview of lipoprotein characteristics and metabolism but it is surprising that there is not a chapter devoted to the latter subject. Subsequent chapters give clear descriptions of lipoprotein biosynthesis, including regulation and extracellular proteolytic processing, the genetics of lipoproteins (not including the recent cloning of LDL) and membranes and transport. Three reviews of wide interest are the easily read and comprehensive ones on: Apo E in choles-